

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-01  
DHA-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 PPT-01  
/045 W

-----130875 221158Z /43

O 221135Z AUG 77 ZFF 40

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9876

AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 2177

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CARR, STP, US

SUBJ: DETENTION OF US CITIZENS IN SAO TOME

REF; (A) STATE 199094, (B) ACCRA 6385

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: EMBOFF CONTACTED GOVERNMENT OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE (GSTP) CHARGE D'AFFAIRES MORNING AUGUST 22 RE DETAINED CREW MEMBERS AND HELICOPTER FROM US FLAG VESSEL UNDER CHARTER TO STAR KIST INTERNATIONAL. GSTP CHARGE HAD NO REPEAT NO INFORMATION RE INCIDENT BUT

GAVE ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER IMMEDIATELY. EMBASSY EXPLAINED THAT STAR KIST IS LARGE, WELL-KNOWN FIRM IN TUNA FISHING AND CANNING INDUSTRY AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CREW MEMBERS AND HELICOPTER WOULD BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO VESSEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

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2. AT PRESENT COMMUNICATIONS WITH GSTP ARE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. THERE IS NO DIRECT TELEX AND ALL MESSAGES MUST PASS VIA PARIS AND LISBON. TELEPHONE CONNECTION DOES NOT EXIST. ONLY DIRECT LINK IS GSTP CHARGE'S

RADIO WHICH IS BEING REPAIRED TODAY. (HE WILL INQUIRE ABOUT INCIDENT WHEN HE RADIOS SAO TOME THIS AFTERNOON TO VERIFY THAT RADIO IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORKING ORDER.) THERE ARE NO REGULAR AIR CONNECTIONS TO ISLAND, AND WE MUST DEPEND ON INFREQUENT CHARTER FLIGHTS FOR TRAVEL TO SAO TOME AND TO SEND/RECEIVE MESSAGES VIA PILOTS AND/OR PASSENGERS. NEXT FLIGHT IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, BUT WE HOPE TO HAVE WORD PRIOR TO THAT TIME. AIRCRAFT ARRIVING LIBREVILLE TODAY FROM SAO

TOME WITH GSTP OFFICIAL MAIL, AND CHARGE MAY RECEIVE WORD VIA  
THAT FLIGHT.

3. PLEASE ASSURE STAR KIST THAT WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO FIND  
EXPEDITIOUS SOLUTION AND SECURE RELEASE OF CREW MEMBERS AND HELICOPTER.

4. FOR ACCRA: IN VIEW OF COMMUNICATIONS DIFFICULTIES DESCRIBED ABOVE,  
IF LOCAK STAR KIST REP HAS ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR CAN OBTAIN A  
NY  
(SUCH AS NAMES, NATIONALITIES, ETC. OF CREW MEMBERS) VIA RADIO LINK  
WITH VESSEL, PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: WHEN EMBOFF EXPLAINS SITUATION AS  
DESCRIBED REFTEL, GSTP CHARGE MENTIONED DISCOVERY OF PLOT TO OVER-  
THROW GSTP IN JULY AND CONTINUING CONCERN THAT ARMS WERE BEING BROUGHT  
T  
IN TO SAO TOME FROM ABROAD, ESPECIALLY FROM FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES  
S  
IN AFRICA. THIS CONCERN MAY BE EXPLANATION FOR GSTP DETENTION OF CREW  
MEMBERS AND, PARTICULARLY, HELICOPTER. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.  
YATES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977LIBREV02177  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 199094, 77 ACCRA 6385  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1529462  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DETENTION OF US CITIZENS IN SAO TOME  
**TAGS:** CARR, TP, US  
**To:** STATE ACCRA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9f6ffa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009